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Provincial ice storm funding page 2 Make Dreams Come True page 4 Welcome to the Wicked Wizard's Wife page 15

# Bringing podcasts to life in Haliburton

EMILY STONEHOUSE
*Editor*

It's an art form known by many, but the nitty-gritty of podcasting is something that many don't get to glimpse behind the scenes.

That's what Hope Thompson wants to change.

Thompson is a screenwriter, a filmmaker, and a podcast aficionado, who will be bringing her knowledge around the topic to a summer course at the Haliburton School of Art and Design (HSAD).

Having written for a number of well-known plays, movies, and television shows, including the popular *Baroness von Sketch Show* on CBC, Thompson lives between Toronto and Haliburton on a regular basis. She taught screenwriting at the local college in 2019, and this summer, will be returning to dive into the world of podcasts.

"The neat thing about the podcast as an art form is that anyone can do it," said Thompson during a phone interview last week. "It's very democratic, very egalitarian. And the podcast elevates the presentation. It turns into something more professional."

Done with nothing more than a microphone and a

see PODCASTS page 13

**Pic of the pasta**
Haliburton's own 'pasta lady' Daniela Pagliaro works with her grandmother's recipe during a pasta pop-up at Sourdough and Sausage on Saturday. /TIM YANO staff photographer

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# Province offers funding for 2025 storm

EMILY STONEHOUSE

*Editor*

Nearly one full year after an ice storm that shut down the province, Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock, Laurie Scott, announced funding opportunities for storm recovery.

According to a press release that was shared on March 17, over $500,000 will be funnelled into the region, in an effort to cover emergency recovery and clean-up costs. The County of Haliburton received $184,000, Highlands East earned $9,000, and Minden Hills received the biggest piece of the pie, with $332,000.

"The end of March 2025 brought a storm like no other to the communities in our region," said Scott. "Our provincial government recognized the need to financially support our municipalities, who played a critical role in cleaning up the widespread devastation."

Other recipients of the funding include Brock Township with $574,000, and City of Kawartha Lakes at $25,561,000.

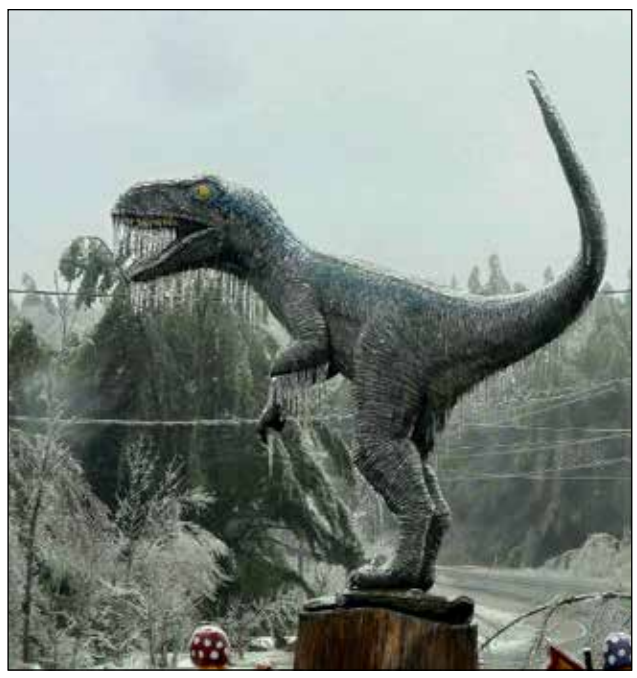
While the funding announcement came shortly after the most recent ice event, it was done in a direct response to the 2025 storm.

"Our government will always protect Ontario, especially in times of need," said Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "The relief being announced today will safeguard local jobs and help Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock rebuild – stronger than ever."

Dave Burton, the warden for the County of Haliburton and the mayor of Highlands East, was appreciative of the funding opportunity. "This funding plays an important role in supporting the County's recovery efforts following the significant ice storm that occurred during the spring of 2025, helping to offset the substantial costs associated with emergency response and cleanup," he said. "The Province's support is greatly appreciated and demonstrates a strong commitment to assisting rural municipalities as they respond to and recover from severe weather events."

Minden Mayor Bob Carter echoed Burton's sentiments. "The Township of Minden Hills is grateful for the funding from the Government of Ontario to help us defray the unexpected costs generated by last year's ice storm," he said. "The combination of our staff with the support of the Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response and the assistance of many other municipalities and organizations, allowed us to tackle the emergency."

Carter went on to note that he hopes the multiple tiers of governance continue to support one another. "Managing through the event and the subsequent substantial recovery, aided by funds from the Province, is a recipe for how the government works together for the people of Ontario."



Pictured, a few images from last year's ice storm, that slammed the entirety of the County, but created extra damage in Minden. MPP Laurie Scott recently announced funding available for the clean-up of the storm. /FILE

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# CARE North Hastings: HE and Bancroft's connection

THOMAS SMITH

*Journalist*

On the eastern outskirts of Haliburton County, Highland Grove and Cardiff are situated over 45 kilometres away from Haliburton's hospital.

From the other side of the County, it takes around 15 minutes to drive from Cardiff to the hospital in Bancroft.

For seniors in rural areas far from our largest towns, isolation can mean life or death in a medical emergency and increased distress from a lack of social connection.

That is why CARE North Hastings has been committed to residents of Highlands East since their inception in 1988.

"It is an imaginary boundary line," said Jennifer Kauffeldt, executive director of the organization.

On Tuesday, March 10, Kauffeldt visited Highlands East council requesting $1,500 in support of the North Hastings Active Agers program.

Over 2,300 unique people utilize CARE North Hasting's programming. The North Hastings Active Agers is their name for their Seniors Active Living Centre programming. Currently, there are 206 people that participate.

From chair yoga, pickleball, painting, and line dancing, the Active Agers programming gets people outside of their house, active, and connecting with other people.

The program is not just for seniors, but also for adults over the age of 18 with a permanent disability.

For those that are physically capable, Active Agers is the only way for many to stay in shape and active.

At the council meeting, Kauffeldt also noted that she has requested funds from Faraday, Nipissing, and Hastings Highlands, as the program has people coming from all surrounding municipalities to participate. The town of Bancroft itself was not asked for funds as they provide the space for CARE's programming at no costs.

The $1,500 would be put to remove any financial barriers of entry for participants. With many seniors reliant on subsidized income and the current economy today, CARE North Hastings wants everyone to have the ability to get active. Currently, there is a $25 annual membership fee to participate, that they understand not everyone can afford.

Active Agers hosts programming every day of the week. Like many of CARE's other offerings, the organization strives to keep seniors as independent as possible.

Keeping people active and independent allows them to remain in their homes as long as possible through CARE's support system and programming. This lets seniors cope with life transitions and prevent premature and unnecessary institutionalization.

Active Agers has become a popular program in Bancroft, and continues to spread by word of mouth. To better support their numbers and ensure consistency, they hope that participants will choose to become regular visitors and come more frequently throughout the week.

Another service offered by CARE is their volunteer transportation program. This brings seniors and adults with disabilities not covered by ODSP to places like Bancroft for things like medical appointments, groceries, bank, post office and legal services. They will even pick people up in surrounding areas like Cardiff to bring them to Bancroft to participate in Active Agers.

A lot of seniors choose not to drive in the winter, whether it is due to eye problems, fear of other drivers, or poor weather conditions like rain and snow. It is also dangerous for seniors to be outside in slippery conditions due to falling.

With food insecurity and insufficient nutrition being a huge issue for seniors, CARE North Hastings offers a Meals on Wheels delivery service.

For this, a frozen healthy meal is delivered that only needs to be heated up and enjoyed. For many that receive their deliveries, the deliverer is the only friendly face that they will see that day. Their deliverers are excited to chat with them, see how they are doing, and check up on them and their living conditions. If anything is needed, they know who to contact to get people the help they need.

"Historically, seniors are often not going out to get groceries for themselves or eating nutritiously," said Kauffeldt.

Many seniors living in retirement communities or apartments are not on the ground level, making carrying groceries upstairs difficult.

CARE North Hastings also helps seniors out with homecare, a walking club, and a phone call check-ins service.

> ***"We see 1,000 unique people per year ... That is a lot of our population."***
>
> — Jennifer Kauffeldt, executive director of CARE

Every day, a volunteer phones a senior to check in on them, ask them about their day, listen to their stories, and remember their birthday. This calling service brings peace of mind to those living alone and will contact help if they do not answer the calls for two days.

"It is to keep people connected to the community," said Kauffeldt.

Their foot care program is offered for free. It includes toenail trimming, checking for problems, and treatment for foot ailments.

CARE North Hastings hosts its programming at the Leafs Centre and their book club meets at their office located in the community health centre, located at 1 Manor Lane.

"We see 1,000 unique people per year," said Kauffeldt. "That is a lot of our population."

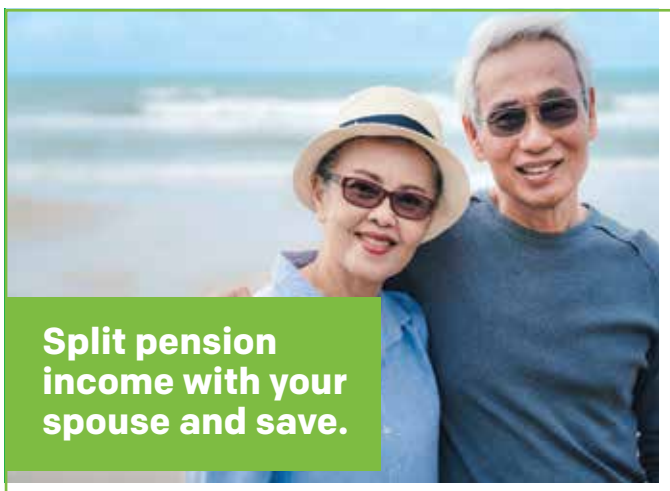
Currently CARE North Hastings is raising funds for a three-door upright freezer to support their meal program.

CARE North Hastings is a registered charity that can provide a receipt with any size of donation. If you would like to donate, you know that your money could be going towards someone heading to their dialysis appointment, providing a meal for an isolated senior, or supporting the mental health of a senior with a daily phone call.

They are also offering a free income tax clinic for those with a modest income in the surrounding areas. No one will be turned away. To access this service, please call 613-332-4700 x0. CARE North Hastings will also be present at the next Senior Information Fair in Bancroft, which they ask to keep your eyes peeled for.

"We are here and available for people," said Kauffeldt.

The report presented to council was received as information, with the funding request set to be addressed at a future meeting of Highlands East council.

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**Thank you for keeping the music alive. We can't wait to see you again next year!**

**— Haliburton Highlands February Folk Festival Team**

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# A second life for formal wear

EMILY STONEHOUSE

*Editor*

As part of the Make Dreams Come True package, photographer Chantel Smith provides professional grad photos for all students interested. /submitted

The goal of Make Dreams Come True is to ensure that all graduating students feel their best on graduation day. /photo by Chantel Smith, submitted

While it's the time of year for spring cleaning, perhaps put those suits and dresses aside for a good cause.

For the past 13 years, Jenn Abbott of Lochlin has been collecting and sorting formal wear for graduating students in Haliburton County.

The Make Dreams Come True campaign kicks off every spring, in an effort to ensure students have enough time to prepare for their graduating day. "Most dresses are usually only worn one time," said Abbott. "Sometimes I even get dresses with the price tags still on. So by donating, it helps people clean out their closets, and it goes right back into the community."

The idea around the program is simple. Students of all ages can send Abbott a message, outlining their preferred styles. From there, Abbott sorts through her donated inventory, picks a variety of options, and drops it off with the students to try on in the comfort of their homes.

Once the students select a style, Abbott then prepares a grad kit, which includes gift certificates and products from across the County. So far, Abbott has received contributions from Highlander Hair Loom, Good Hair Day Hali, the Noble Barber, Minden Pharmasave, Rexall, Glecoff's, Lash and Lacquer by Natasha, Chantel Smith, Nails of Minden Hills, Brandon Nimigon of Century 21, and Todd's Independent.

While the number of students who access the Make Dreams Come True offerings year over year, in the 13 years since its inception, the program has helped hundreds of students feel confident on their big graduation day.

The root of the cause is near and dear to Abbott's heart. "My family couldn't afford a dress for me to go to prom," she said. "I know how expensive it can be. And with the cost of living, the price of groceries, a lot of families just can't afford that."

But Abbott is adamant that the program is for everyone. "It's a great way to recycle, it's better for the environment, it can be for literally anyone who is looking for an outfit for graduation."

In Haliburton County, there are graduation ceremonies at Archie Stouffer Elementary, J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary, Wilberforce Elementary School, Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, and Adult and Alternate Education Centre.

If you are interested in either donating formal wear, contributing goods or services to Make Dreams Come True, or to try on some clothes and styles, contact Abbott at 705-286-0906 or message her via the Make Dreams Come True Facebook page. While graduations are not until the late spring, getting sized and fitted should be done in advance.

"I strongly believe that if someone puts in the work to graduate, they deserve to be recognized, they deserve to be celebrated," said Abbott. "That's why I do what I do."

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A message from the Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Ontario Health Team

Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Ontario Health Team

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This is not a 'trade' only Job Fair. We would like to include as many businesses as possible from across Haliburton County. We will also have outdoor space available for any participants who would like to bring larger tools or equipment. The more interactive your space is, the more engaged the students will be.

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# A fresh start for Minden Community Food Centre

EMILY STONEHOUSE
*Editor*

There's a new face for the Minden Community Food Centre, and she's already got some big plans.

Tracey Gilbert has called the Haliburton Highlands 'home' for over three decades, and while she spent time as a PSW and marketing with Patient News, she's recently found her footing as the new manager for the Minden Community Food Centre. "I have always loved being a part of the community," said Gilbert during a phone interview last week, "and I've always loved giving back. That's where my real passion is."

The role was formerly held by Jean Munroe, who worked as the manager of the site, and Lynette Gray, who was assistant manager. In light of their retirements, Gilbert has jumped in head first. "I used to volunteer with the holiday hampers here, and the Minden Fishing Derby," she said. "Now that my kids are older, I've really been able to jump into that role."

Since mid-August, Gilbert had been helping out with marketing and social media for the centre, but when Munroe announced her retirement, Gilbert started thinking. "I thought that it might be a really good change for me," she said. "An opportunity to really give back to the community."

The Minden Community Food Centre receives no government funding, and is solely supported by donors and sponsors of the facility. There's also a small but mighty team of volunteers that keep the centre running. "The food bank wouldn't be the same without them," said Gilbert. "We work really hard as a team here, and I depend on them."

> *"I've always loved giving back. That's where my real passion is.*
>
> — Tracey Gilbert, Minden Community Food Centre Manager

Gilbert noted that since the COVID-19 pandemic, food bank usage across the province has increased over 165 per cent. "It's scary," she said. At the Minden site, Gilbert has seen a 40 per cent increase year over year. That equates to five to ten new people each month, requiring food services.

In 2021, the food centre supported an average of 77 households per month. This year, the average is 177. And that's just the info available thus far; Gilbert anticipates that this will continue to grow.

In the past, the facility used to supply four days worth of food every month. That was then bumped to four days worth of food for every three weeks, and now is set for seven full days of food every three weeks.

"I have to give Jean and Lynette a lot of credit here," said Gilbert, noting that the former management team were responsible for receiving accreditation from Food Banks Canada, as well as the development of the shopping model for the centre. "It allows for people to feel like they are doing their grocery shopping themselves," said Gilbert, "it gives that little bit of independence."

Because the centre is wholly reliant on community funds to exist, Gilbert has a number of fundraisers set for the year. The next one is scheduled for April 11 at the Minden Curling Club, featuring an elevated three-course meal and a fireside chat with Canadian broadcaster Scott Russell and figure skating champion and commentator Tracy Wilson. The event will also include live music, a silent auction, and a raffle for prizes, with all contributions going towards the Minden Community Food Centre. Gilbert noted that tickets are selling fast, and can be purchased through the centre's Facebook page.

"I'm excited," said Gilbert. "I've got a lot of energy, and so far, the energy I have to bring is endless. I want to bring us to the next level."

Minden local Tracey Gilbert has stepped into the role of manager for the Minden Community Food Centre, and she has big dreams ahead. /submitted

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## Smoke and mirrors

WE'VE ALL heard the saying "don't bite the hand that feeds you".

The colloquial phrase alludes to the fact that we should be grateful for what we are doled out; appreciative for what's being handed to us.

Even if that hand occasionally slaps you across the face.

The gesture to offer Ontarians money in light of the major storm that swept the province this time last year is a kind offering. In times of need and ever-increasing prices, a little extra cash can go a long way.

But I can't help but question the logic around it.

Editorial

*Emily Stonehouse*

When MPP Laurie Scott's team announced the funding last week, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Rob Flack took the spotlight. "Our government will always protect Ontario, especially in times of need," he said.

He noted that the financial contributions will make our communities "stronger than ever."

But the Conservative government handing us cash a full year after an event - an event caused by climate change, no less - is like fanning the flames once they've taken hold, instead of testing out the smoke detectors.

Reactive versus proactive.

A proactive approach to mitigating climate change would be to protect endangered species, to prioritize significant wetlands during developmental stages, and to provide appropriate funding for organizations to advocate for environmental needs.

Just a few days ago, the Ford government announced that there would be a 75 per cent reduction in the number of conservation authorities, amalgamating the 36 existing organizations down to nine.

This will have a significant impact on wetlands, on floodplains, on drinking water, to name a few items.

It's no secret that Premier Ford does not make decisions with the environment on the forefront. He's never been known for that, and *save the turtles* doesn't have the same jaunty jingle as *buck-a-beer*, but as the people of Ontario, the ones who get slapped when the waters run and the flames take hold, we need to follow the money.

We're in a stage where finances are so tight, that a little reactive handout is all it takes to blind us from the big picture; a distraction from what happens behind the curtain. And yes, Ford is the one responsible in that middle playground, but our elected officials at a local level have a direct line.

I've said it before and I'll say it again: keep the big picture in mind when it's election time. While the priorities and obligations vary between each level of government, they're all tied and tethered together, and all elected with one purpose: to care about our communities.

So as these hands continue to dole out bits and pieces that keep us afloat while fanning the flames, maybe it's time to take a few steps back, and test out the smoke detectors.

## News on TikTok

OVER THE past month I've done a bit of a news consumption experiment. I unfollowed everyone I was following on TikTok and instead followed 15 accounts run by different news agencies. The purpose was to see how useful a platform like that would be for watching the news.

Part of my curiosity was because of how sharing news online has changed since the passage of the Online News Act in 2023. Like similar Australian legislation, the Online News Act was meant to provide a structure for Canadian news media to negotiate with large tech companies that aggregate and post links to news, notably Google and Meta, for compensation. Both companies initially opted to just stop publishing Canadian news links. Google eventually reached a deal to pay $100 million per year to be disbursed through the Canadian Journalism Collective. Meta, however, has continued to block the sharing of Canadian news links on both Instagram and Facebook.

Much discussion can be had about the Online News Act and whether it has helped or harmed. But for the purposes of this experiment, I'm concentrating on one particular effect of the Act – that being unable to use a major social media platform to share news links and commentary created a blind spot in our information landscape.

Humans & Technology

*Erin Kernohan-Berning*

Since 2023, more Canadian news has been landing on TikTok, with television news media like the CBC, CTV, and Global News producing content optimized for the platform's vertical video format and time constraints. Even publications like the *Toronto Star* and *Globe and Mail* are creating video content to supplement their print stories. So how does a platform like TikTok perform as a place to access the news?

My results have been mixed. On the positive side, Canadian news content is very easy to find on TikTok. Just search for the outlet and you'll find it. TikTok also has a verification program, so verified accounts from Canadian news outlets are marked with a blue badge. This makes it easier to avoid imposter accounts.

On the negative side, there are privacy and data security concerns associated with TikTok, though I'd argue that almost all social media platforms carry similar concerns. The reality is that by signing up for a social media account, you are by default giving up some of your privacy and your data will be used to grow the profits of the company that owns it. Also, like all but a handful of social media platforms, TikTok defaults to an algorithmic feed upon opening, not a chronological one. So, if you want to only look at your carefully curated list of news accounts, you have to remember to tap your "Following" feed.

The most jarring part of the experience was that even in your following feed, TikTok does not show videos in any particular order. While it will initially show a few of the most recent posts, it will then start to jump from videos posted hours ago, to videos posted months ago, and back again. When you're trying to maintain a sense of when or how often things are happening, having a news feed be in chronological or reverse chronological order helps provide that context.

In my TikTok news feed, I was sometimes getting a series of videos showing just stories about vehicle accidents, or just stories about crime, even though those stories occurred months apart. This can create the false impression that there is a surge in these kinds of events, when in reality I'm just being shown a bunch of examples all at once.

When news appeared in my algorithmic feed (on TikTok known as your "For You Page" or FYP), things were even worse. TikTok's algorithm quickly adapted to my interest in Canadian news, but on the FYP post dates are conspicuously absent. For example, I would get videos from CTV about a significant weather event, but without a date I didn't know if a snowstorm was on its way or if the story was about one the week before. Reels on both Instagram and Facebook operate in much the same way. The idea is that by removing the context of time, the platform will keep you engaged even with older content.

Despite its drawbacks, TikTok has become a quickly growing source for news. While I wouldn't solely go to TikTok for that purpose, if you're already using the platform, it's worth trying to add some Canadian news content to your following feed. While social media is never an ideal place to get your news intake, the fact of the matter is that it is a way for news outlets to reach millions of people – and for that purpose TikTok is, however imperfectly, a viable option.

# *points of view*

## Bearing with me

**Loon Tales**

*Steve Galea*

MY BIRTHDAY was on Sunday, and I had a wonderful day. Jenn made me my favourite dinner and pie. My kids called or visited. Many of my friends contacted me in person or on-line. Better still, many of my friends did not.

But the highlight of the day was the words Jenn wrote in a birthday card to me.

I won't reveal those words, because she is a private person. Suffice it to say that they were thoughtful, loving, kind and reaffirming. In short, they mirrored my feelings for her.

As I read them, I could not help but think there is no greater birthday gift than this.

But this morning I realized there was.

When I woke up, I read the card again – and Jenn noticed.

"You like that card huh?" she said.

"Yes, very much," I replied. "There's only one thing that could make it better."

"What is that?" she asked

"Could you read it to me?" I answered.

"You want to hear me reading my sentiments in my own voice?" she replied.

"Actually," I said, "I'd like to hear you read those words in your best cartoon bear voice."

"A cartoon bear voice?" she said.

"Yes," I said. "Your best one."

I won't lie to you. For some reason, Jenn was not keen on the idea.

But, after a bit more discussion and no small amount of pouting, I eventually convinced her that actions speak louder than words.

"Besides," I said, "it's not like this happens every day. Heck, we've been together 15 years, and you have never once spoken to me in your cartoon bear voice. I just want you to know it's OK …"

Jenn then shrugged and reluctantly read the sentiments she penned in that wonderful card using her best cartoon bear voice. And what a voice it was!

I know what you're thinking, but I'm not bragging.

Ah, who am I kidding? Jenn did not just mail it in with your run of the mill Yogi Bear imitation. No sir, she put some real thought and effort into this.

Her best cartoon bear voice showed plenty of depth. It was low-pitched and pleasant, but also filled with undertones of undeniable menace and anger. It was a voice that said, "Sure, I'll be kind and patient now, but just try stopping me from stealing your picnic basket later if we meet in the park."

Frankly, it exceeded all my expectations.

When she was done, I said. "That wasn't so hard was it?"

She said, "No", though sadly in her human voice.

Look, I may not be the best person to hand out relationship advice, so take this for what it's worth.

The so-called "experts" will tell you that the key to a good relationship is open and honest communication. But no one ever says that the key to a great relationship is open and honest communication in cartoonish voices, so long as they are not chipmunk voices. Those are silly.

Anyway, trust me on this. It is.

I know it was not easy for Jenn to open up to me in this way. But I think we have found another meaningful way to communicate. And, as the experts always say, that's never a bad thing.

In fact, later that day, I caught her practicing.

Every time I passed her, she was trying out this wonderful cartoon bear growl.

## pic *of the* past

The pic of the past this week is of a men's hockey team. The insignia on their jerseys is an HHA, possibly Haliburton Hockey Association? The team poses with their trophies. The man on the far left is identified as George Woods. Woods was the original owner of the ice cream parlour that later became the Kosy Korner. /submitted

## They come and they go

**Down Our road**

*Sharon Lynch*

SHE HADN'T thought of Betty for years. But there she was, popping into Karen's head for no apparent reason.

It was a perfect evening for walking the dog and Karen was quite content to let Barney stop at every tree (well almost every one) for a sniff. A few clouds scuttled across the moon's face just to make it interesting while the tree tops nodded in agreement.

As they ambled along, Karen cast her mind back to high school and her friendship with Betty. The two had stuck together like glue back then. Shared interests and compatible introverts, they could tell each other anything and know it would go no farther. But after high school they went their separate ways. Universities in different cities meant new friends and shifting interests.

Karen wondered if it would have been different had there been cell phones and social media back then. Was it really fifty years ago, she asked herself with a quiet shudder. Ships that pass in the night, she thought.

Then she was distracted by another dog walker headed her way. It was Sue with her German Shepherd Sam tugging on the leash. Of course Barney, a third the size, wanted to take Sam on as he raised his hackles and pulled furiously on his own leash. The two humans greeted each other as they passed while Barney continued to pull and Sam looked disdainfully at the small dog.

They walked on. Now that Karen had started down memory lane, she found herself thinking of other people who had passed through her life. There was Mary in Yellowknife who drove a dog sled, Trevor who played the guitar and worshipped at the altar of Gordon Lightfoot. Trevor had wanted to marry Karen and busk their way around the world. He would provide the music while Karen sang. He was convinced they would eventually be discovered, move to New York and become famous recording artists.

It didn't happen. But it was fun to imagine that kind of life.

So where were Mary and Trevor now, Karen wondered. She had tried searching on the internet but no luck. Maybe they're dead, she mused, climbing the stairs to her back door. That thought brought a slight chill as it did whenever she contemplated subjects like aging, illness and all those inevitables.

Now Barney was sitting on the kitchen floor as he should, paw raised in a request for his dog treat. This always followed the night walk and if Karen didn't comply, Barney would follow her all around the house until she remembered.

She made herself a cup of tea and picked up a book she was reading. But her mind, once started down memory lane, didn't want to stop.

There was her favourite uncle who had stepped in when her dad had died. She had spent a summer at his farm and it had changed her life. That was when she had decided to leave the city and find her own small patch of the great Canadian wilderness. Uncle George had dropped dead of a heart attack twenty years ago and there were days when she really wished he was still around so she could share all the changes that happen in anyone's life.

Karen wondered if her old friends ever thought about her. And what would those thoughts be? Did they remember their past relationships in the same way as she? And of her current circle of friends, who would pass through her life and move on to new people and places?

The thoughts kept intruding until finally she put her book down, unable to focus on it. She sipped her tea and watched the flames in the woodstove. Barney was curled up on the old chair beside the stove. Karen doubted he considered anything other than meal time, walk time and snooze time.

Like one of those passing ships, she also would be moving on in the journey called life. No doubt there were still storms ahead. She would deal with them as they came, as best she could.

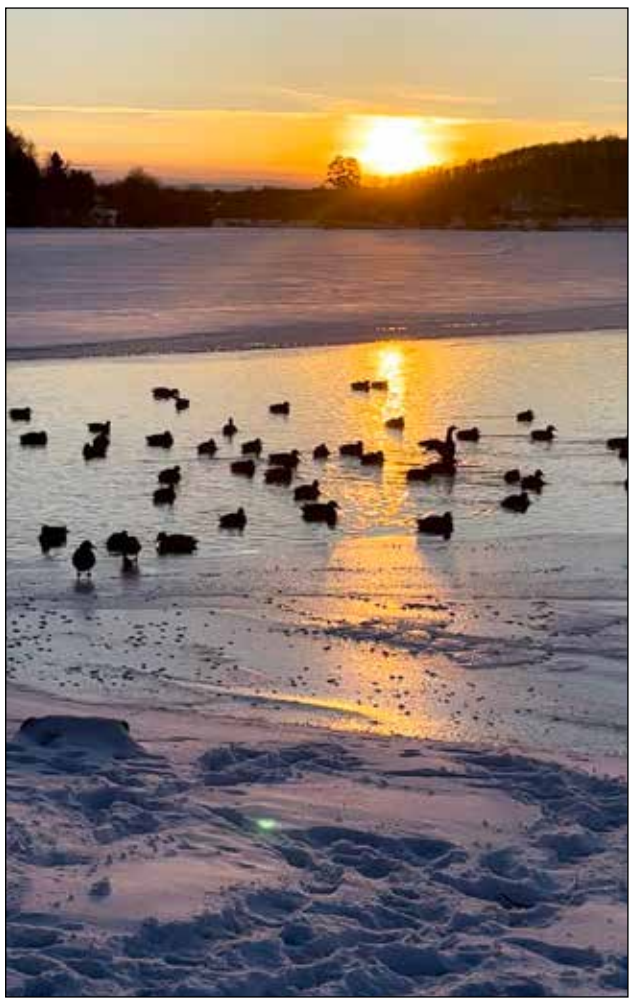
But the real question was what kind of harbour she'd find at the end of her travels.

# Ice Out returns

It's that time of year again!

For decades now, our newspaper has hosted their annual Ice Out contest, where we ask the community to guess the official date that all ice will be melted from Head Lake. The winner of the contest will receive one full year subscription to the *Haliburton Echo* or the *Minden Times*.

Send your best guesses to emily@haliburtonpress.com for a chance to win. Good luck!



HALIWOOD NORTH
YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
SIS, JANUARY AND FEBRUARY ARE NOW BEHIND US. THIS JUMP IS ONLY GOING TO GET SMALLER.
MAYBE THAT'S A GOOD THING.
MAYBE FOR YOU. A WISE MAN ONCE SAID: "SHOOT FOR THE MOON..."
"...IF YOU MISS..."
"...YOU STILL LAND AMONG THE STARS!!"
...OR YOU'LL CRASH LAND AND THEN SEE STARS. WISE INDEED.

# Fast Lane Monday afternoon bowling league

Top Bowling Scores March 16

**Women**

High Single
Sandy Glecoff 248
High Single with Handicap
Sandy Glecoff 307
High Triple
Sandy Glecoff 527

**Men**

High Single
Marty Schuster 248
High Single with Handicap
Marty Schuster 289
High Triple
Marty Schuster 560

New bowlers are welcome to join!

## *Minden Memories*

From Carol Moffatt's postcard collection, this mid-1940s image of Minden's Main Street shows the 1912 steel bridge and the aftermath of the 1942 fire, with a lone dog in the foreground adding character to the scene. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

HALIBURTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Book of the Week

Spanning generations—from first contact with European settlers to present-day—this powerful collection of short stories illuminates the breadth of Indigenous experience across time and place. With lyrical prose rooted in traditional storytelling, Peters captures both the dignity of Indigenous ways of life and the lasting wounds of systemic racism. From a young man estranged from his parents after returning from residential school to a grieving mother who finds purpose as a water protector, these stories are a moving testament to resilience, joy, and enduring strength.

*Waiting for the Long Night Moon* by Amanda Peters is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library. Visit haliburtonlibrary.ca to place a hold or learn more.

# Apples for all with U–links

EMILY STONEHOUSE

*Editor*

For Zachary Bednarz, there's always been value to understanding where your food grows.

Growing up in Timmins, Ontario, the Trent University student is a part of the ongoing research around food production in community kitchens. "I find that interaction very important," said Bednarz during a recent phone interview. "At farmers' markets, you get to know the story behind it."

Bednarz has teamed up with Emma Lynds, Laila Cook, and faculty supervisor Eric Sager, for the U-links community-based research project "Food Production Through Community Kitchens"; analyzing the feasibility of seasonal apple processing in Haliburton County.

With an area of study focused on hydrology and topography, Bednarz required a management course to check the boxes for his degree. He discovered the community-based course out of Trent University, which is a collaborative course with community partners, academic faculty, and student researchers.

The intention of the program is to dive into research questions that impact a community as a whole.

"This collaboration results in lasting relationships and tangible benefits that enhance the social, cultural, environmental and economic sectors of Haliburton County," reads the U-links website. "We aim to assist community organizations, businesses, and municipalities by providing practical information to support development in Haliburton County. We also offer students valuable opportunities to expand their knowledge and skills through community-based research and service learning projects."

For this specific project, the Trent students were paired up with the Apple Tree Identification Project (ATIP), to further the ongoing studies around apple trees in the area. "We wanted to connect the surplus of apples in the area to community kitchens," said Bednarz, noting the opportunities for students, food centres, and local restaurants to access the apples.

Bednarz shared that in the 1800s, apple trees were planted in abundance around the County. While they were not originally met with warmth from the climate, over the years, the soils evolved and warmed in the area, resulting in what Bednarz referred to as "a really nice environment for growing apples, now."

While the apples largely reside on private properties, Bednarz and his team have reached out to community kitchens and various organizations to see how the apple production can be put to good use. "It's kind of spread out now," he said, "but we're trying to find ways to get them all together."

The research from the project will be shared at the upcoming U-links Celebration of Research on March 28 at the Haliburton Legion. On top of the apple initiative, there will be over 42 other poster presentations on community-based research, provided by engaged students, university faculty, and local partnering organizations.

If any local groups or individuals wish to get involved with the apple and community kitchen initiative, Bednarz suggests looking up hwww.appletreeshaliburton.ca.

The Celebration of Research will be running from 11 to 3:30 p.m. on March 28.

# AH agrees to sell OLAC art book at Dorset Tower

THOMAS SMITH

*Journalist*

> ***"Oxtongue Inspires is probably one of OLAC's most ambitious community projects."***
>
> — Jan Woods, OLAC co–chair

Oxtongue Lake for Arts and Culture (OLAC) is a not-for-profit organization founded in 2012 that highlights and celebrates the arts, history, culture, and heritage of Oxtongue Lake.

Just as A.J. Casson and Tom Thomson were inspired to collectively paint over 30 paintings in the area, the group hopes to leverage this connection to strengthen and preserve the surrounding natural environment around Oxtongue Lake and enhance community spirit.

Jan and Chris Woods, co-chairs of OLAC, spoke to Algonquin Highlands Council on Thursday, March 5 to request the waiving of a wholesale discount when selling their art books at the Dorset Fire Tower gift and souvenir shop.

"Because we are a not-for-profit organization, we are asking council to waive this requirement so we can keep the $12 for OLAC," said Chris.

The book retails for $60 and is a celebration of the Oxtongue Lake community. It is also proudly printed and bound in Canada.

"*Oxtongue Inspires* is probably one of OLAC's most ambitious community projects," said Jan.

The couple were inspired to begin the book after seeing beautiful photos of the area on social media.

While some submitters are artists by trade, Woods says that they range from cottagers, to local community members as well.

"I really would like to congratulate you, it is a beautiful project," said AH Mayor Liz Danielsen.

Danielsen recommended purchasing several copies of their books and selling them in their gift shop at the Dorset Tower.

"Then when we sell out, we buy more books," said Danielsen. "I think that might be a win-win situation."

Council agreed that purchasing copies of the book to sell would be best. That way, the money goes right to supporting OLAC.

"I agree, I think this would be a fantastic addition to the Dorset Tower gift shop," said Chris Card, parks, recreation, and trails manager for AH.

The book will be launching on Canada Day this year and can be purchased at oxtonguelakearts.ca.

Municipality of Dysart et al
135 Maple Ave., P.O. Box 389,
Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0
Telephone: (705) 457-1740
Email: info@dysartetal.ca
Website: www.dysartetal.ca

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING
**COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT**

- **DATE:** Thursday, April 9th, 2026
- **TIME:** 11:00 am.
- **LOCATION:** The Committee of Adjustment meeting will be held in the Council Chambers and electronically via Zoom.
  The meeting will be live streamed to YouTube.

**APPLICATIONS:**

1. D13-MV-2025-025 Schmidt-Hansen

   - The following variance is requested to legalize a shed on a lot located in the WR4 zone:

     a) A variance to Section 5.2 to permit a shed to have a minimum water setback of 17 meters (56 feet) as opposed to the required minimum of 20 metres (66 feet).

   - Location: Part Lot 5 Concession 4 and 5, Lot 12, Plan 497, in the Geographic Township of Dudley, in the Municipality of Dysart et al.
   - Roll No. 020-000-80400

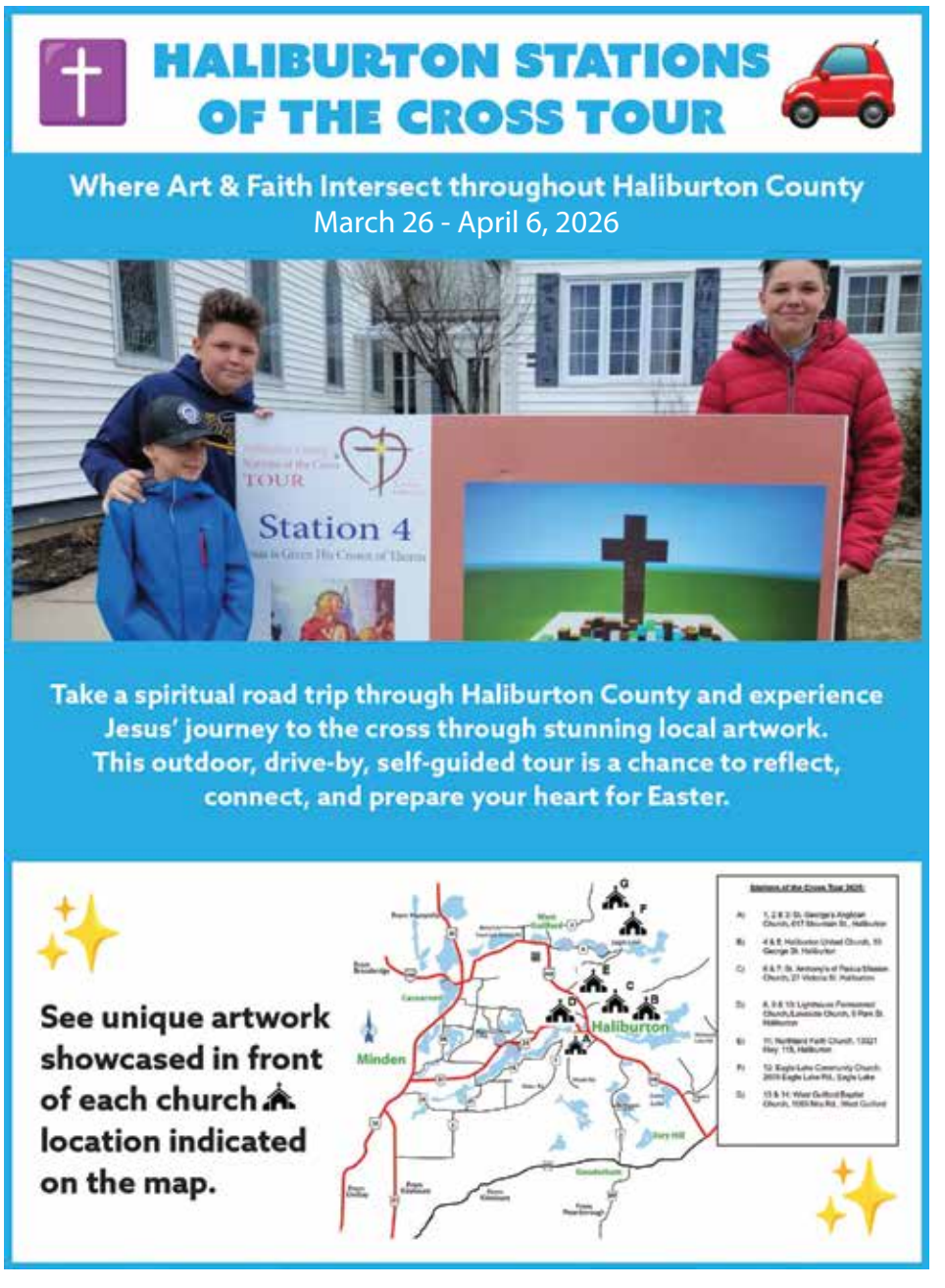
**FOR MORE INFORMATION** about electronic meetings and public participation in an electronic meeting, contact the Secretary-Treasurer at ameijer@dysartetal.ca.

**ANY PERSON** is entitled to attend the hearing to express his/her views about these applications or may be represented by an agent for that purpose. If you do not attend the hearing the Committee may proceed in your absence, and you will not be entitled to any further notice of the proceedings. The Committee will accept oral and written submissions.

**A COPY OF THE DECISION** will be sent to the applicant, the agent and to each person who has filed with the Secretary-Treasurer a written request for notice of the decision.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:** including specific information about the zone provisions affected by each application, and electronic meeting process is available from the Planning and Land Information Department at the Municipal Office by appointment only (8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday) or by phoning 705-457-1740.

Adam Meijer
Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment


HALIBURTON STATIONS OF THE CROSS TOUR
Where Art & Faith Intersect throughout Haliburton County
March 26 - April 6, 2026
Station 4
Take a spiritual road trip through Haliburton County and experience Jesus' journey to the cross through stunning local artwork. This outdoor, drive-by, self-guided tour is a chance to reflect, connect, and prepare your heart for Easter.
See unique artwork showcased in front of each church location indicated on the map.
Minden
Haliburton

## Sweet meat

The Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association (HHOA) hosted their 31st annual Wild Game Dinner this past Saturday at the Haliburton Legion. The sold-out event offered a variety of meats and specialty recipes to try out for all those in attendance. /THOMAS SMITH staff

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS HEALTH SERVICES

**Board Member Recruitment for 2026/2027**

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) delivers high-quality health services to residents, cottagers, and visitors to Haliburton County and the surrounding area. We work closely with local and regional partners to optimize health and wellbeing in Haliburton County by providing access to essential health services, including Emergency and Inpatient, Long-Term Care, and Community Support Services. For more information about our organization please visit our website at www.hhhs.ca.

HHHS is seeking strategic, experienced, engaged, and talented members of our community to join us in pursuit of this vision by participating as a voluntary member of our Board of Directors or as a Community Representative on one of the Board's Standing Committees.

At a minimum, board members should expect to devote approximately 10 hours of time per month to HHHS business, including attendance at monthly board and committee meetings both in-person and virtually.

Annual board recruitment is based on vacancies and the requirements identified through a Board Skills Matrix that ensures a complementary balance of knowledge, skills and experience. **This year we are seeking individuals with a background in legal, and in construction, engineering or project management. We also continue to look for individuals with backgrounds in governance, finance & accounting, clinical and patient & healthcare advocacy.**

How to be Considered

Interested applicants are requested to complete an application form and submit it along with a covering letter and resume via email quoting "HHHS Board Recruitment" in the subject line to mhenry@hhhs.ca by April 14, 2026. All applications will be acknowledged and held in confidence.

Application forms and additional board information can be found at:
https://hhhs.ca/governance/leadership-board-and-management

**Inquiries can be directed to:**
Email: mhenry@hhhs.ca
Phone: (705) 457-2527

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS HEALTH SERVICES

**Haliburton Highlands Health Services Seeking Community Advisory Committee Members for 2026/27**

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) is seeking community-minded individuals with recent experience as a patient, client, or resident who are interested in serving on the Community Advisory Committee (CAC). CAC members are responsible for providing advice and insight to HHHS' Board of Directors on the delivery and future planning of community services in Haliburton County. The CAC will also share insights on community trends, issues, and feedback.

Key functions of the Community Advisory Committee will include providing insight on:

- Needs of community services clients
- The unique and diverse needs of the Haliburton County community
- Further opportunities for partnership and collaboration
- Best approaches for communicating with the community
- Feedback on the delivery of community services and future planning for services

The Committee generally meets on Thursday mornings 7 times per year

If you feel you have the time, energy and commitment to be a member of this year's Community Advisory Committee, then we would like to hear from you by April 14, 2026.

For further information and an application package, please contact: Michel Henry via email at mhenry@hhhs.ca OR phone Michel at (705) 457-1392 Extension 2248.

Patrick Hillier and Tessa Shields dressed in their finest greenery for St. Patrick's Day at the Dominion Hotel.

**An ode to the Emerald Isle**

Deb Banks was all smiles after working over 10 hours preparing for the St. Patrick's Day celebrations at Boshkung Brewing. /THOMAS SMITH staff

A sizeable crowd turned out for Irish song in celebration for St. Patrick's Day at the Dominion Hotel last Tuesday.

Klinsvin Gilbert rocked Boshkung Brewing for St. Patrick's Day playing the best classic tunes.

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

NORTH STEEL

Since 1986

Congratulations to Hans Walter on his remarkable legacy at North Steel (www.northsteel.ca), a proud company founded right here in Minden, Ontario, nestled within the picturesque landscapes of Haliburton County. You and family created a foundation that you carried forth through good and difficult times. You built up a network of great employees and teams, clients, suppliers and contractors that showcased your steel work not only locally, but in other cities, municipalities and international markets.

**As Hans Walter retires, North Steel enters its 40th year with a transition to new ownership, and I have every confidence that the proud legacy he has built will endure and flourish for years to come.**

**I, and on behalf of many here who know you, would like to THANK YOU for your guidance, assistance, and relationship over the years. I wish you much success as you move into your new chapter as even though you may be retiring from North Steel, we also understand that 'retirement' is not in your vocabulary.**

For those who wish to reach out direct to Hans in joining me in wishing him a good transition,
Hans' new office info is: Dir: 705-457-6913 E: hwalter1127@gmail.com

*Wishing you all the best in your next journey in life and business.*

Congratulations on Your Retirement

Josie Giovenco,
REI, Developer/Builder
Minden, ON
www.bgrnorth.ca

# Securing our future as an energy superpower

We're building the first small modular reactors in the G7 and first large scale nuclear facilities in 30 years.

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PROTECT ONTARIO

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# Podcasts offer a 'democratic' approach to news

**from page 1**

computer, there are currently over 584 million podcast listeners around the world, according to podcaststatistics.com. As of January 2026, there are 4.58 million podcasts available worldwide, with listeners increasing around the world by nearly 10 per cent year over year.

Thompson noted that podcasts are what blogs used to be. Where it was once entirely possible to put your thoughts - recipes, ideas, dreams - into the world via a blog, it's now more common to take the podcasting route. "To me, it is the audio creation," she said. "It comes from the art of radio plays and radio drama."

And the most popular podcast theme? True crime. With over 24 per cent of all North American podcasts made to focus on that area of intense interest, Thompson found herself swept into the world of criminal activity through her ear buds.

After connecting with Ellen White, the host of the popular Canadian true crime podcast *Whereabouts Unknown,* Thompson went about becoming a licensed Private Investigator (PI). She then started writing for the show, and will be turning these writings into a book in the future. "The content is very, very tragic," said Thompson, "but watching (White) work with podcasts to try to find the answers, it's quite important work."

Thompson noted that consuming news through podcasts can be advantageous for deeply understanding a topic. "It plays a role by exploring one aspect of the news more deeply," she said. "At the same time, you have to ask where that podcast came from? Is there bias? There are so many out there. It's democratic. Anyone can do it. But you're digging into issues outside that continuous, cascading stream of never-ending news."

The week that Thompson is offering the course, she intends to kick off with basic writing; honing in on the topics, and selecting areas of interest for the participants. HSAD has then partnered with Canoe FM, to provide a legitimate recording space, for students of the class to try their hand at the art of podcasting in a real studio. "I want to explore the podcast with the participants," said Thompson, "and really look at that audio creation with spoken content."

Roxanne Casey, the manager of Canoe FM, noted that the volunteer-run studio is excited to partner with HSAD once again. "Last year, we had the pleasure of working with a singing group, and this year it's wonderful to support a podcast program," she said. "Collaborations like this bring new voices into the station - people who might not otherwise walk through our doors - and that's incredibly valuable."

Canoe FM hosts a number of podcasts from resident voices, and with the course in place and local opportunities available, Casey hopes to provide support for this art form. "With podcasts continuing to grow in popularity, we're proud to help participants create high-quality recordings at Canoe FM while staying true to our community-focused mandate," she said.

Thompson will be offering her course, titled *Podcasting for Beginners: Write, Record, Play*, from July 20 to 24 at the Haliburton School of Art and Design. There are still spaces available for those interested in participating.

# Fleming College to offer ECE

As the demand for high-quality early years programming and childhood educators continues to grow across Ontario, Fleming College Continuing Education is proud to announce its new ECE Leadership Development specialization for early childhood education (ECE) professionals, beginning in May 2026. This online, flexible program supports the transition of frontline educators into supervisor and administrator roles without stepping away from the early learning service centres that need them.

With the expansion of Ontario's Canada-Wide Early Learning and Childcare system, which includes a goal of 86,000 new licensed childcare spaces, the need for skilled administrative leadership has never been greater. Fleming's ECE Leadership Development specialization provides a critical bridge between the province's ambitious goal and the advanced skills required to reach it.

Built on the foundation of Fleming's well-established two-year ECE diploma program, this new professional specialization empowers ECE graduates and individuals in educator roles to gain advanced skills in communication strategies, advocacy and professionalism, management and staff development, marketing, financial planning, and adapting curriculum practices.

"Fleming College has a long-standing reputation for excellence in ECE training," says Nick Stone, Associate Vice President of the School of Health and Community Services. "We are continuing that legacy with this leadership development specialization, providing the childcare and early years sector with the expertise to lead it."

Eligible applicants can qualify for financial support through the Ontario ECE Leadership Grant Program. Funding applications are accepted starting April 13, 2026.

For more information, visit the ECE Leadership Development specialization program page or e-mail coned@flemingcollege.ca.

*Submitted*

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We're training over one million workers for in-demand careers, so you can build a stable, secure future for you and your community.
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# Our plan to protect Ontario is fighting for every auto job

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# Making magic in the Haliburton Highlands

EMILY STONEHOUSE

*Editor*

You can tell when there's a lot to say in a story by the conditions of my hands following an interview.

When I sat down with Andrew Nowell and Jennifer Steele-Nowell last week about their newly opened shop, the Wicked Wizard's Wife, by the time I finished the interview, my right hand was dyed completely blue along the edge; a testament to how much there was to say about the couple.

But the blue ink looked right at home in their shop; a cozy corner tucked into the back of Castle Antiques in Haliburton, the walls adorned with vibrant paintings, tarot cards stacked neatly on vintage desks. There were black cats peeking out of watercolours and sparkling gemstones organized by type.

The Wicked Wizard's Wife has been open for just a few short weeks, but word is quickly spreading about the shop of curiosities. While we sat for our interview, the couple took turns getting up to help a steady stream of customers; peeking their heads in to learn more about the community offerings.

Many would recall the Psychic Fair held last October at Castle, where psychics, artists, and storytellers gathered around to offer a spooky market leading up to Halloween.

The event was the brainchild of Andrew and Jennifer, who had just recently moved to the Haliburton Highlands. And while the market was hugely successful, it was just the starting point for the couple. "We took a leap of faith," said Andrew, "That fair was a market study." He noted that through the event, he saw that the majority of attendees hailed from either Minden or Haliburton. "So we knew we would have an audience here," he said. "There are a lot of amazing people here. It's such a hidden gem."

The couple celebrated their one year wedding anniversary with the opening of the shop in early March. But for both of them, their lives navigated a series of twists and turns along their path. Andrew was born in Barbados, and spent 24 years in the military upon moving to Canada. Beyond the regiment of the militia, he spent a bulk of his career in occupational health and safety, monitoring everything from food safety to helicopter checks.

But through his childhood, Andrew always knew there was more. As a self-described empath, he noted that he always felt in-tune with what others were feeling. "It kind of makes you a bit of an outsider growing up," he said. "But you just have to give, and you have to help people."

Jennifer went to school for geology. She spent 15 years in the field before a series of health challenges forced her to take a step back and realign her path. "In hindsight, all of those health issues were energy related," said Jennifer.

Through a series of fortunate events, Jennifer found herself on a journey to attain her yoga teacher training. "And it was like I found myself," she said. "It was such a transformational time in my life."

Through her training, Jennifer then discovered the art of Reiki, a Japanese technique that focuses on energy movement, and promotes relaxation, stress reduction, and inner healing.

With his empath roots in full-force, Andrew also started navigating the practice of Reiki, and through this, was invited to a weekly psychic practice.

And suddenly, the pieces of the universe began to fall into place. Jennifer was invited to the same weekly meeting, and their souls connected. "People talk about soulmates," said Andrew, "and there are different levels to that, but we know we were supposed to be together. We've been together in other lives."

And through their joined forces and "leap of faith", they moved from Kawartha Lakes to the Haliburton Highlands. "We want to give back," said Andrew. "What can we do for Halibur-

**see COUPLE page 16**

Partners Jennifer and Andrew have officially opened the Wicked Wizard's Wife in Castle Antiques. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

**Notice**
**(Applicant – Gallagher/Ruhl)**

**In the matter** of the *Municipal Act* and in the matter of a proposed By-law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East to close, stop-up and convey certain portions of a Shore Road Allowance along the shore of **Contau Lake**, more particularly hereinafter described.

**Notice Is Hereby Given,** pursuant to the *Municipal Act, S.O. 2001*, and the Municipal Procedures, that the Township Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass at a virtual meeting on **Tuesday the 7th day of April, 2026**, 9:30 a.m., a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance in front of Lot 17, Concession 5, Township of Glamorgan, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Parts 1 and 2 on Plan of Survey 19R-11141, **made by IBW Surveyors** completed August 15, 2025. *(Part 2 being the flooded portion to be retained by the Municipality of Highlands East).*

The Plan of Survey Survey 19R-11141 is available to you for inspection by you making an appointment at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

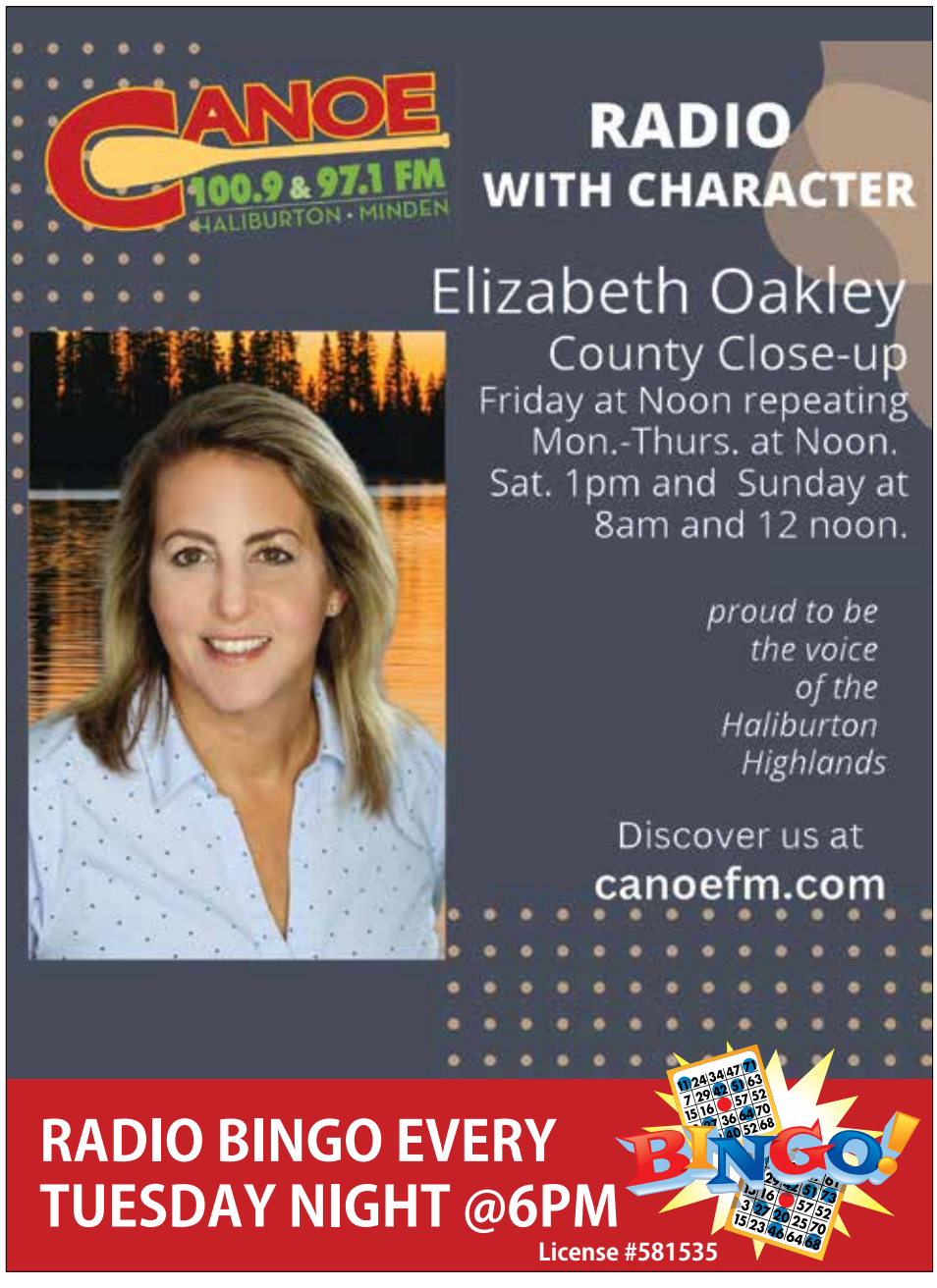
The above-described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus. If you wish to attend the virtual meeting, please call or e-mail the Municipal Clerk prior to the day of the public meeting so you can be provided with a link or phone number for the meeting. If you do not have the capability to attend a virtual meeting, please provide written comments to the Municipal Clerk prior to the public meeting.

Any person or his or her counsel, solicitor or agent who attends the virtual meeting shall be afforded an opportunity to make representations in respect of the within matter.

**And Take Further Notice** that if the public wishes to participate regarding the purchase of Shoreline Road Allowance please contact the Municipal Clerk.

**Dated** at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 17th day of March, 2026.

**Robyn Rogers, Municipal Clerk**
Box 295, 2249 Loop Road,
WILBERFORCE, ON K0L 3C0
**rrogers@highlandseast.ca**
(705) 448-2981



# Couple find their purpose through new business

**from page 15**

ton?"

Pretty quickly, they figured out their purpose. In the Wicked Wizard's Wife, the couple celebrate local artists and small businesses. They bring people together through readings, craft offerings, and psychic sessions. And this is just the beginning.

"I want to see this as a community hub," said Andrew. "How can we partner with Haliburton, and make opportunities for everyone?"

Inside the entryway to the shop, the couple have hung a community board, where they hope to promote services and offerings by other members of the community. They also hope to build on the success of their fall Psychic Fair, and provide similar events in the coming seasons.

The shop is open Wednesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with those hours extending in the warmer months. They can be found on Instagram @wickedwizard2026. They describe their shop as a "Spiritual and Metaphysical Shop, run by husband and wife, best friends, lovers, partners, and soulmates."

When asked about their beliefs and areas of focus, the couple took some time to consider. "We're just a speck of sand," said Andrew, referencing the expanse of the universe. "It's bigger than we can comprehend. But when you become open to all that is out there, it's more than you can put words to, it's a way of life."

# Grow a row for SIRCH

Gardeners know the feeling. Sometimes the cucumbers grows faster than expected, the beets come in thicker than planned, and the squash vines take over half the garden.

This year, SIRCH Community Services is inviting local gardeners to Grow a Row for SIRCH.

The initiative encourages gardeners to plant an extra row of vegetables - such as cabbage, beans, onions, cauliflower and other fresh produce - to help support meals prepared through the SIRCH Community Kitchen.

Those donations help SIRCH prepare the thousands of meals shared each year with neighbours facing food insecurity across Haliburton County.

SIRCH is currently looking for about 20 local gardeners to participate in this pilot program.

If you enjoy gardening and would like to grow something that truly helps someone else in the community, SIRCH would love to hear from you.

Participants will receive:

- Basic growing guidelines, planting timelines, and crop suggestions
- Seeds for the program, (generously donated by Country Rose Flowers and Garden)
- An invitation to a welcome workshop, plus tips and guidance from local Master Gardeners

For more information or to become a Volunteer for growing or the harvest, email growarow@sirch.on.ca.

*Submitted*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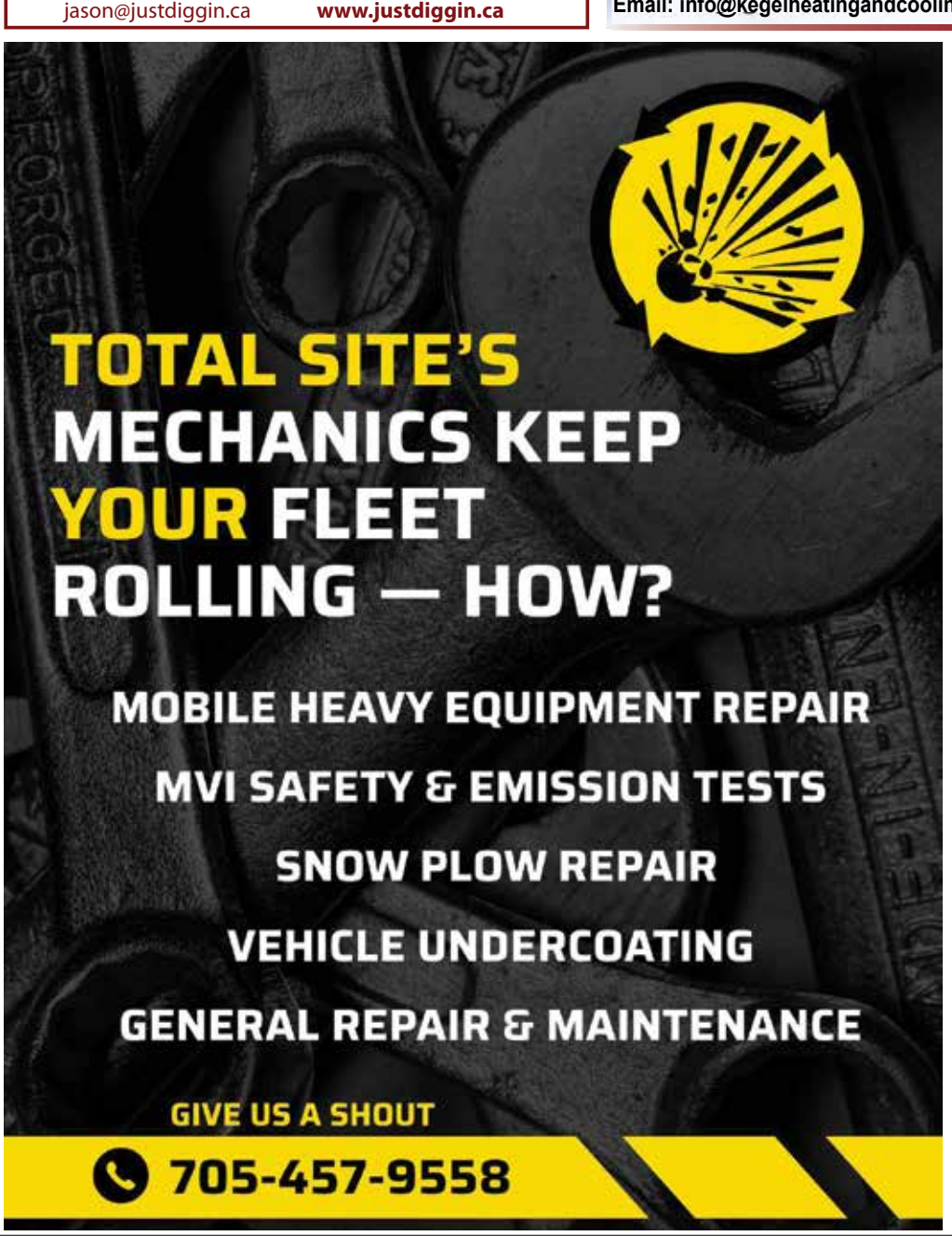


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laura@haliburtonpress.com

**Jennifer McEathron**
jenniferm@haliburtonpress.com

**Amanda Gonyea**
705-457-1037
classsifieds@haliburtonpress.com

## Pasta perfection

Daniela Pagliaro runs OG Cucina, making homemade recipes from her Italian background. This past weekend, she ran a pop-up shop in Sourdough and Sausage in downtown Haliburton; an ode to the days gone by of pasta making. /TIM YANO staff photographer

# Local Service Directory

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chapmaninstallations0@gmail.com

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information@emmersonlumber.com
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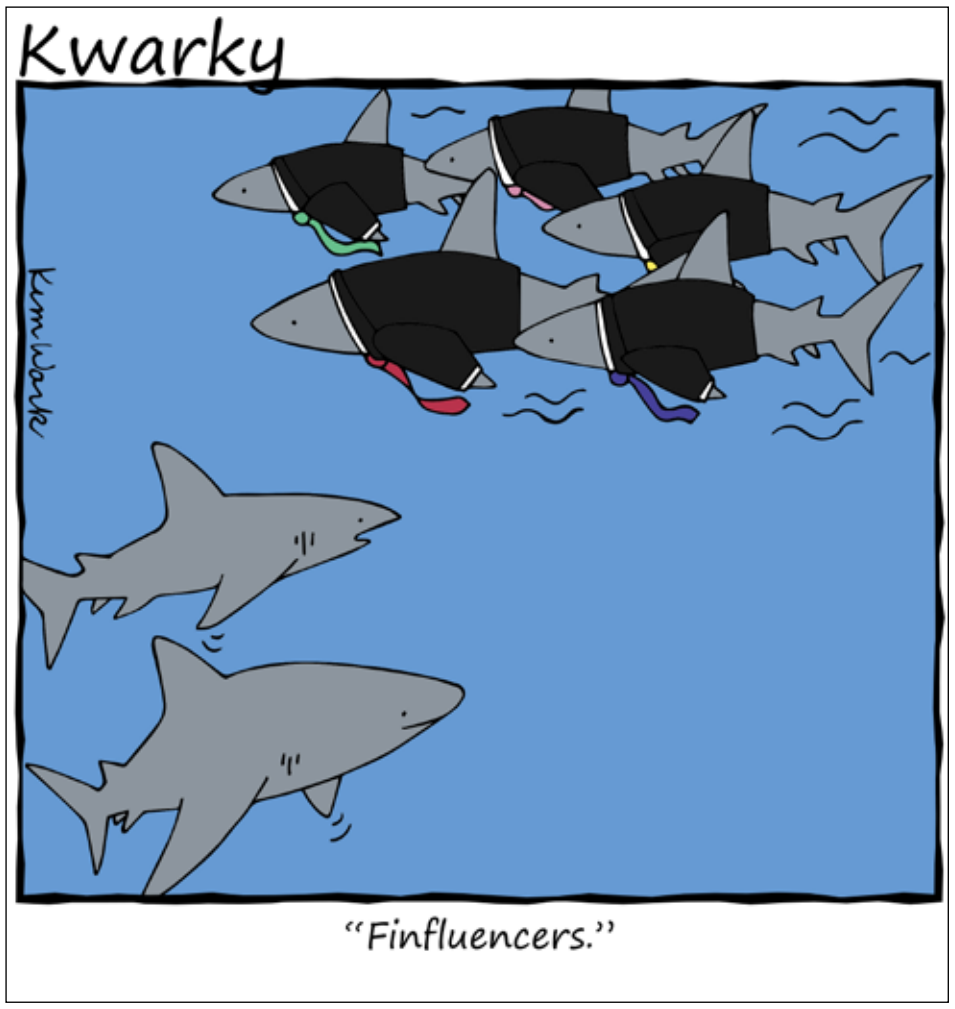
HOME IMPROVEMENT




*Brought to you by*

# SUDOKU

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| | 7 | 9 | | 8 | | | | 4 |
| | | | | 3 | | | | |
| | 5 | | | | | 9 | | 8 |

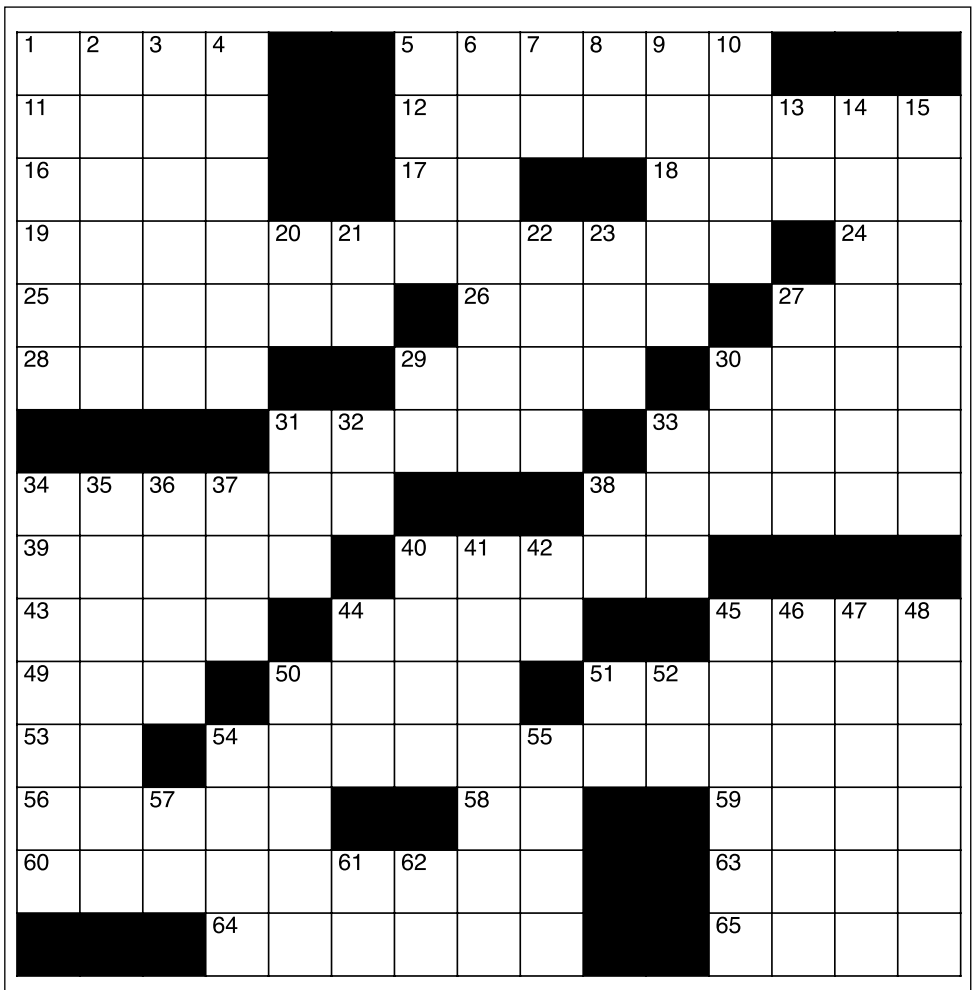
Level: Intermediate

**Fun By The Numbers**

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

**Here's How It Works:**
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

*Answers on page 20*



CLUES ACROSS
1. "Bird of Paradise"constellation
5. Red Sox WS winner Bronson
11. Whirl
12. The State Dept. has a notable one
16. Energy, style and enthusiasm
17. Part of the mind
18. Mountainous country
19. Type of beverage
24. Atomic #109
25. Opposite of falsities
26. Female sheep
27. Rocky peak
28. Sensitive information sharing environment
29. Ethnic group of Thailand
30. Patron saint of Rome Philip
31. Psychedelics
33. Japanese pine
34. Have an impact on
38. Violent disorder
39. A French river
40. Early Mesoamerican civilization
43. Messenger ribonucleic acid
44. Musician Clapton
45. Ancient Greek sophist
49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
50. Valley
51. A way to unwind
53. Atomic #93
54. Recommending
56. Indigo bush
58. Larry and Curly's pal
59. Off-Broadway theater award
60. Fencers
63. Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
64. Relating to songbirds
65. A way to assign

CLUES DOWN
1. Some are "secret"
2. Intestinal openings
3. Distant planet
4. Assembly possessing high legislative powers
5. Genus of typical owls
6. One with distinctively colored hair
7. Red cross
8. An alternative
9. Abominable snowmen
10. About ear
13. The opening letters
14. Feeling of regret
15. Atomic #39
20. Luteinizing hormone
21. Atomic #55
22. Carries a debt
23. Albanian monetary unit
27. Semitic abjad letter
29. Yes
30. Negative
31. Earn a perfect score
32. Connecticut
33. Partner to cheese
34. Snack nuts
35. Quadruped's body part
36. Locate
37. Pitching statistic
38. "__, myself and I"
40. Utah city northwest of Provo
41. Football players in the trenches
42. One who runs the show
44. Wood
45. Performing artists
46. Slang for a cut
47. More breathable
48. Most crafty
50. Provokes into action
51. University of Dayton
52. Sodium
54. Large fish of the mackerel family
55. Not one
57. __ and behold
61. Sports highlight show
62. "The Great Lakes State"

*Answers on page 20*

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**Newly renovated** 2-unit house on 9.5 scenic acres near Haliburton. LOWER: 1-bed, 1-bath. Features open-concept living, new appliances, in-unit laundry and outdoor living spaces. 10 minutes from Haliburton & perfect for peaceful living. Contact: info@aboveboardcarpentry.com **705-455-2196**

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Fitness Room for rent: Blue Sky Yoga Studio at Haliburton Chiropractic. Bright & Open in Downtown Haliburton with Private entrance and washroom. **Health Professional/ Therapist treatment room for rent** at Haliburton Chiropractic. Furnished with massage table, desk & chair. Available by the hour, half or full day. Contact: 705 457 3500. info@haliburtonchiropractic.com

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| 1 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 5 |

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**The Corporation of the County of Haliburton is currently recruiting for the following seasonal roles:**

**One (1) Seasonal 1 Operator/Labourer**
DZ licence and experience with road maintenance and repair required.
Hourly rate is $28.43. Unionized CUPE position.

**Three (3) Flagperson/ Labourer(s)**
G licence and experience in manual labour positions required.
Hourly rate is $21.28.
Unionized CUPE position.

**One (1) Engineering (Seasonal) Student**
G licence and current enrolment in an engineering program required.
Hourly rate is $26.36. Unionized CUPE position.

**One (1) Seasonal Capital Projects Inspector**
G licence and at least five (5) years of related municipal experience.
Hourly rate is $36.08. Unionized CUPE position.

**Applications**
Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for detailed postings and job descriptions. Forward your resume to **shume@haliburtoncounty.ca** no later than **March 27, 2026**.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.
The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.
In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act,* the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

## COMING EVENTS

**Stained Glass Workshops.** From beginner up. Registration open now. Learn the art of stained glass. Call Tom for details. **705-286-3628**

**SEEDY SATURDAY** *Visit website for details*
Start the 2026 garden season off on March 28
- Local garden, ecological, and seed vendor booths
- Participate in the local seed exchange
- Advice from Haliburton County Master Gardeners
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**Love the outdoors?**

Camp Towhee is hiring a **Property Manager** to maintain cabins, trails, docks, and facilities at CDI's therapeutic summer camp for youth. Hands-on maintenance experience required. Seasonal contract May–Sept. Valid driver's licence required. Pay is $62,400 annualized (pro-rated for the contract) plus $2,050 completion bonus. To learn more and apply, please visit **https://childdevelop.ca/about-us/join-our-team/**

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## OBITUARIES

*In Loving Memory of*

### Paul Michael Cummings Tribute

Paul started school at St Francis de Sales in Pickering, Ontario. He continued at the elementary schools in Haliburton, Ontario when his parents moved there in 1968. Paul attended Haliburton High School before attending Laurentian University on Sudbury, Ontario.

Paul is survived by his siblings: Carole, Elizabeth, Brenda, Patricia and Michael and pre deceased by siblings: Lorne, Kevin, Michelle and Donald and mother Mary Alice and father Michael Joseph.

Paul travelled to Victoria in the mid 1990's. He lived in Victoria, Sooke and Duncan area. Paul participated in various community groups and activities such as the Green Barter System, Near Death Experience (NDE) Society of Vancouver Island, Sooke Lions, peer helper at Sooke Family Resource Society, Brain Injury Society, artistic gyroscope dance, Every Step Counts, coached with Special Olympics ski team, Spirit Bears, electronic publishing, photography, men's groups, personal growth, Reiki, wholistic health, Huntingtons Disease (HD) Society and UBC HD research study.

Some of the sports Paul participated in are hockey, skating, golf, baseball, basketball, lacroose, pool, sailing, badminton and tennis. Paul did trades contract and driving instructor work.

Paul enjoyed going to music coffee houses, concerts, jazz festivals, plays, IMAX theatre, Victoria boat festival, Victoria inner harbor music and events or just enjoying an ice cream cone on the Beacon Hill Park lookout.

Travelling around Vancouver Island (Duncan , Sooke and Victoria areas) on his motor cycle or in his car was a pleasure Paul enjoyed while taking in the area and having a Timmy's coffee. Also, he enjoyed going for walks and always had to pet and engage with dogs/owners along the way.

Paul loved reading. He had over 600 books. In particular he enjoyed mystery, sci-fi and wholistic books.

Paul had a gift when he dialogued with people, he could succinctly summarize things in a one sentence response for others.. Paul's had a spiritual nature and had the intention to be guided by quality harmonious choices. Paul had an inner drive for fairness and justice.

Paul enjoyed going out to different restaurants and going to the Oak Bay pool. He made many friends on these outings. In his later years, Paul woke up every day glad to be alive and live in the moment. Paul regularly answered the phone 'Paul here'. Maybe, now when you think of Paul you will hear 'Paul here'.

Paul will be greatly missed by many people.

Cummings family and Chris Kunz

Condolences may be offered to the family at www.pacificcoastcremation.com

*In Loving Memory of*

### Michelle St. Pierre

*August 4th 1956 - March 17th 2026*

Born in Toronto, Michelle grew up in the city's East End and attended Riverdale Collegiate. In her youth she worked a variety of jobs including at a poster shop, a medical office, and a bank's corporate headquarters. Her spare time was spent sailing and enjoying extended stays in Jamaica.

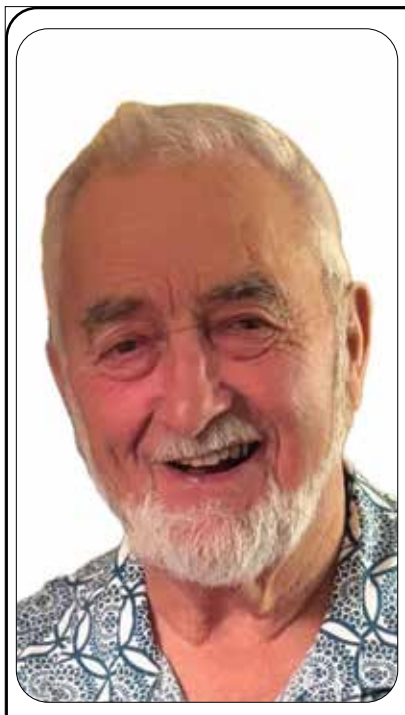
In her early 30's Michelle moved fulltime to the cottage in Gelert with her partner George Farrell. There she took several years off paid employment to raise her children. Upon returning to work her longest employers were Golden Stationers in Minden and the Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre in Haliburton. She volunteered for a number of local causes including the Haliburton County Fair and the Minden Library expansion. In her later years Michelle moved to Haliburton Village where she proudly went almost everywhere on foot.

Michelle loved to travel, visiting places such as Quebec, the Maritimes, Alberta, British Columbia, USA, Mexico, Portugal, Scotland, England, Denmark, Sweden, Italy, Austria, Slovakia, and Hungary.

Michelle was a voluminous reader, staunch feminist, political left-winger, keen art collector, skilled knitter, and an incredible cook. She was compassionate yet tough as nails.

Following a recent cancer diagnosis Michelle died on March 17th. Michelle is predeceased by parents Hazel and Martin, brother Joseph, partner George, and parents-in-law Jean and Stan. She is survived by sons Brendan and Tyson, cousins Jan and Paul, aunt Collette, uncles Jack and Don, niece Channel, and great-niece Monique.

Cremation has taken place. Donations can be made to the Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre and The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust.



### Robert "Bob" Bird

*Resident of Haliburton*

With deep love and gratitude for a life well lived, the family of Robert "Bob" Bird announces his peaceful passing on March 16, 2026, at the age of 80, surrounded by loved ones.

Predeceased by his loving wife Dianne Bird (nee Harrison). Bob was a proud and devoted father to their two children, Kellie (Steve) and Scott (Teressa). His legacy continues through his five beloved grandchildren, Logan (Danielle), Rachel (Tanner), Haiden, Erik, and Jayla.

Dear brother of Erma, Linda, Sherry, and Judy (Mark). Predeceased by his brothers Jack (Mary), Glen (Marie), Beau (Verna), and Earl. Predeceased by treasured brothers and sisters-in-law Ron, Lloyd, Dwight, Marylou, and Muriel. Cherished uncle of his many nieces and nephews.

Son of Arvine and Ruby Bird, Bob was born in Haliburton and dedicated his working years to County Auto & Rad six days a week. You could always expect honest service with a smile and a good chit-chat.

A true man of the woods and waters, Bob was never happier than when he was outdoors- whether he was hunting, casting a line, or sitting by a campfire. Above all, he was the steady anchor of his family. His greatest joy was found in the laughter of his children and grandchildren, the company of his friends, and the simple beauty of a day spent together.

He leaves behind a legacy of kindness, many great memories, and a family who will miss him every single day.

**Celebration of Life**

As per Bob's wishes, cremation has taken place. Friends and family are invited to call at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. #118 Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209 on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, for a Visitation from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. A Celebration of Life will take place on Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 12:00 (noon). Visitation one hour prior. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation would be appreciated by the family.

Community Funeral Home
***www.communityfuneralhomes.com***

*In Loving Memory of*

### Ian Park "Scotty" Morrison

*Passed away peacefully at Columbia Gardens in Invermere on Thursday morning, February 25, 2026 in his 96th year.*

Born in Montreal shortly after his parents' arrival from Scotland, sport was the first love in Scotty's life. Scotty enjoyed playing and officiating baseball and hockey. It was while officiating in the Western Professional League that he met the love of his life Margaret Joan Perry during a memorable 20 minute flight that would change the course of his life. Scotty and Joanie built a remarkable life centered on faith and love while raising a beautiful family of eight, Ian (Sue), the late Perry 1982, Kathy (Bernd Gutgesell), Don (Valerie), Cam (Carla), the late Karen 2023, Joanne (Rob Gray), Carolyn (Dean McIntosh).

Predeceased by his beloved Joanie and his son Perry and daughter Karen. Many would suggest that he had too many grandchildren to count but the official number was 26 who loved and adored him, along with 4 great grandchildren. Scotty is also fondly remembered by his sister Cindy and her family.

While family was always his focal point, Scotty's contribution to hockey was extraordinary. He became the youngest official in the NHL, later serving as the NHL Referee In Chief and Vice-President. In 1986 he was appointed to develop and open the new Hockey Hall of Fame. His dream came true when the new 'Shrine of Hockey' opened in 1993 in downtown Toronto. He was inducted into the Hall in 1999 in recognition of outstanding contribution to the world of hockey.

Despite his demanding career, Scotty always made time for what mattered the most. Summers were spent at the family cottage on Kennisis Lake, where lifelong memories were made with Joanie, their children and grandchildren.

After Scotty retired from the NHL, he devoted his retirement years to volunteer work, raising money for the Hospital in Haliburton and spending time with his cherished grandchildren.

Scotty's greatest and most enduring Legacy was his family. A legacy filled with love, humour and his dedication to his faith. These qualities continue to guide and inspire his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and all who knew him.

To truly remember & honour Scotty, be sure to thank a coworker today; give your child a tight hug and let them know you love them; Thank your kid's coach; be respectful to a sports official and/or count your blessings. God Bless

There will be a service in both Invermere & Haliburton County

**INVEREMERE, BC** - June 26, 2026 @ 11 a.m. Canadian Martyrs Parish in Invermere. Reception at the church hall to follow.

HALIBURTON, ON - July 24, 2026 @ 11 a.m. St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church. Reception to follow at The Pinestone from 12p.m. to 2 p.m. The burial will take place at St. Anthony of Padua Roman Catholic Cemetery following the reception.

# Classifieds

Call 705-457-1037
classifieds@haliburtonpress.com
Deadline Friday at 12 pm

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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

### WORDS

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BREATHWORK
CHAKRA
CLARITY
COMPASSION
ENLIGHTENMENT
EQUANIMITY
FOCUS
GRATITUDE
INTENTION
MANTRA
MINDFULNESS
MUDRAS
NIRVANA
PRANAYAMA
PRESENCE
SAMADHI
STILLNESS
TRANSCENDENCE
VIPASSANA
VISUALIZATION
ZAZEN
ZEN

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STROKES OF COLOUR
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Children's book a taste of all that's wonderful this season... pg 33

HALIBURTON COUNTY
# ECHO
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## Hospital construction should start this summer: Hodgson

by PETER DOWNS
Staff Reporter

Victoria-Haliburton MPP Chris Hodgson is confident shovels will be in the ground within four months on the county's new healthcare facilities.

Speaking at a "Townhall Breakfast" hosted by the Chamber of Commerce Saturday, Hodgson told the audience the Ministry of Health and the Haliburton Highlands Health Services board are making progress on the long-awaited expansion projects.

"I expect to see some construction by early summer, if there are no glitches," he told the crowd of about 65 at Stanhope's Community Centre.

That could put the $10.6-million expansion plans at Haliburton Hospital and Hyland Crest in line for a start as early as July.

But Stanhope Reeve Jock Mavor, who is chairman of the board at Hyland Crest, said the health services board could benefit financially by delaying construction on the projects by at least half a year.

Mavor said he has heard the board may be able to qualify for 100 per cent funding to upgrade the facilities, under proposed legislation being considered by the province.

He said the legislation would make it mandatory for all publicly owned long-term care facilities to meet new standards and the province would offer full funding to make any necessary upgrades.

Mavor said it is his understanding that the legislation is expected to be passed in about six months.

Rather than going ahead with construction now with 50 per cent provincial funding, he recommended waiting until the proposed legislation is in place which could give the board full funding from the ministry of Health.

Mavor asked Hodgson to confirm whether the legislation and funding model he cited are indeed being considered by the province.

Hodgson said he isn't aware of either. But if the province does offer increased funding at some point in the future, "of course we'll apply for it," he said.

See HODGSON page 6

**DANCE ALONG WITH DEBORAH:**

When Deborah Dunleavy sings, children don't just listen – they sing along. The popular performer's energetic concert on Sunday at the Haliburton Legion, left, had children on their feet. Above, Megan McCrae, Andrea Salvatori and Madison Espie get into the spirit, acting out one of the silly nonsense songs that aren't so silly to a child's ear.

## Minden MNR and OPP to share the same building

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

It's official – the administrative office for the Minden/Coboconk OPP is moving to the Ministry of Natural Resources building in Minden.

OPP Central Region Chief Superintendent Bill Hutton and Staff Sgt. Andy Millar made the announcement at Wednesday's county council meeting, a day after MPP Chris Hodgson, Solicitor General Bob Runciman and the OPP Commissioner met to make the final decision.

This ends months of speculation and differing reports of where the office will be located.

The Coboconk office will stay open, but Millar and three office positions will move back to Minden. The lease at the present OPP office in Minden will be discontinued.

This means the MNR building, where fewer people have been working since last year's budget cuts, will have to be renovated to include a holding cell. The police expect to use part of

See MNR page 8

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## The face of county council will change

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

When it came right down to the final decision, the tradition of having deputy-reeves sit at the county council table met a quick and quiet end.

There was no argument, no debate, just a heavy silence as county councillors prepared to vote on the motion which would change the face of county council.

It's not that there weren't strong views about the motion to eliminate deputy-reeves at county council. But the issue has been debated in some form or another for the past several years, and all the arguments had been exhausted, both for and against. It seemed there was nothing new to say. There was no last-minute attempt to change each other's minds.

Even the people who sat in the audience watching Wednesday's proceedings chose silence when Warden Murray Fearrey asked if anyone from the public would like to put forward their views. Most of the 11 spectators were members of municipal councils who had already expressed their views at meetings over the past month.

Only Fearrey addressed the issues. He said some councils voting against the elimination of deputies felt there were no cost savings to be had. Fearrey said the savings "are insignificant in the scope of things" but they do

See THIRD page 4

The Echo office will be closed on Good Friday, so advertising and editorial deadlines will be Thursday, March 27 at 5 p.m.. The next edition appears Tues., April 1. We wish everyone a happy Easter holiday

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# 2026 MARKET OUTLOOK

As we settle into the start of 2026, I've been doing a lot of reflecting on the year behind us.the Haliburton market has officially transitioned into a buyer's market, moving away from the frantic pace of previous years toward a more cautious and strategic environment.

### 2025 Retrospective: A Shifting Landscape

- **Inventory Surge:** Listings spiked as COVID-era owners sold due to rising carrying costs and stricter short-term rental (STR) regulations.
- **Pricing Softening:** While waterfront remains the premier asset, average sale prices have begun to ease.
- **A Slower Pace:** Buyers are taking more time to decide, forcing sellers to recalibrate their price expectations.

### 2026 Outlook: Trends to Watch

- **Record-High Inventory:** A "double wave" of new 2026 listings and unsold 2025 carryover is expected to create the highest inventory levels in over a decade.
- **Sideline Buyers Return:** Stabilizing Bank of Canada rates are expected to bring cautious buyers back into the market.
- **Strategic Pricing is Vital:** In a high-volume market, accurate pricing is the most critical factor for a successful sale.
- **The Spring Advantage:** Baumgartner Realty Group anticipates a seasonal uptick in demand, advising sellers to list early to capture motivated "first-wave" buyers.

## HALIBURTON COUNTY

### RESIDENTIAL SALES

2024 **544 SALES** → 2025 **470 SALES**

**14%**

### NEW LISTINGS

2024 **1419 LISTINGS** → 2025 **1516 LISTINGS**

**6.8%**

### AVERAGE SALE PRICE

**NON-WATERFRONT**

2024 **$426,911** → 2025 **$397,497**

**7.4%**

**WATERFRONT**

2024 **$878,633** → 2025 **$811,671**

**8.25%**

**Data researched from the OnePoint Association of Realtors as of February 9, 2026*

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